

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are now pending in the application and have been rejected. Claims 1, 7, 18, 19, 20 and 29 are amended. Claim 2 is cancelled. Claims 30-33 have been added, resulting in the net addition of one independent claim and two dependent claims. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed with this response for the additional claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pala et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,304,173). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite "...a user interface that allows a user to control the video switching mechanism to specify at least one default video output of the video cameras for display on at least one of the monitors when no control signals are active on the vehicle interface." Pala et al. disclose a vehicle display system in which a video switcher 84 selectively routes video signals from cameras 50, 116 or 117 to a movable display 24. Although a driver can use a user input control 78 to override such items as preset camera angles (column 4, lines 50-53), the initial position of the cameras and the default or initial view provided to the display 24 when in the first position may be user-definable through software (column 4, lines 34-44). Thus, although a driver might be able to override a default setting while operating the system of Pala et al., an occasional

override is not tantamount to changing the default setting itself, which is software-defined.

In contrast, the user interface recited in amended claim 1 allows a user to control the video switching mechanism to specify at least one default video output for display when no control signals are active on the vehicle interface. The user can use, for example, buttons on the front video monitor to change the default view for the front monitor. To change the default view for the remote video monitor, the user can use a wireless remote control or press buttons on the remote monitor (specification, page 10, lines 2-15), FIG. 8). It is easily appreciated how a user of the apparatus recited in claim 1 would find it convenient and useful to be able to specify, *e.g.*, by pressing a button, a default video output that is displayed while the vehicle inputs are inactive. Thus the user is relieved, for example, from having to repeatedly override an undesirable default video output display. Therefore Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 should be allowed.

Claim 2 is cancelled, since the subject matter of claim 2 has been addressed in amended claim 1. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1. In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-6 also should be allowable.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to recite "...a user interface that allows a user to control the switching mechanism to specify a default camera output for display on the monitor when no control signals are active on the vehicle interface." As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, Pala et al. disclose a software-defined default or initial view provided to the display, not the user interface recited in claim 7.

For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claim 7 should be allowed. Claims 8-13 depend from claim 7. In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-13 also should be allowed.

Referring to independent claim 14, the claim recites "...a view indicator mechanism that displays a graphical view indicator on the video monitor that indicates which video output is currently being displayed on the video monitor." Pala et al. do not disclose a graphical view indicator indicating which video output is being displayed. In contrast, the apparatus recited in claim 14 includes a visual indication to the user that is superimposed upon the video image being displayed (specification, page 6, lines 2-11). The graphical view indicator may be, for example, text, arrows, etc. that communicate to the driver which camera view is currently being displayed (FIG. 3-5; specification, page 5, lines 6-29). Therefore it is submitted that claim 14 should be allowed.

Dependent claim 18 is amended to recite that "...a graphical view indicator is superimposed on the video output that indicates which video output is currently being displayed on the video monitor." Because Pala et al. do not disclose a graphical view indicator, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 14, and claims 15-18 dependent on claim 14, should be allowed.

Independent claim 19 is amended to recite "...a user interface that allows a user to select a default specification that overrides a previous default specification as to which video output to display on one of the monitors..." As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, Pala et al. disclose a software-defined default or initial view provided to the display, not the user interface recited in claim 19. For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claim 19 should be allowed.

Independent claim 20 is amended to recite "...a user defining, via a user interface allowing the user to interact with a video switch and controller coupled to the monitor, a second default source specification that determines which output is displayed on the video monitor when no control signals are present on the vehicle interface...". As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, Pala et al. disclose a software-defined default or initial view provided to the display, not the user interface recited in claim 20. The user interface of claim 20 is coupled to one or more devices that allow a user to interact with the video switch and controller, which is coupled to one or more video monitors (specification, page 8, lines 18-27; page 6, lines 22-24).

For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claim 20 should be allowed. Claims 21-24 depend from claim 20. In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 20, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-24 also should be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29 and possibly 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pala et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,304,173) in view of Lee (U.S. Pat. No. 5,680,123). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Dependent claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21 and 22, as discussed above with reference to independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 20, are respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Independent claim 19 is amended to recite "...a user interface that allows a user to select a default specification that overrides a previous default specification as to which video output to display on one of the monitors..." As previously discussed with

reference to claim 1, Pala et al. disclose a software-defined default or initial view provided to the display, not the user interface recited in claim 19. For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claim 19 should be allowed.

Referring to independent claim 25, the claim recites "...displaying a graphical view indicator on the video monitor that indicates which video output is currently being displayed on the video monitor." As previously discussed with reference to claim 14, Pala et al. do not disclose a graphical view indicator indicating which video output is being displayed. Therefore it is submitted that claim 25, and claims 26-28 dependent on claim 25, should be allowed.

Independent claim 29 is amended to recite "...a user defining, via a user interface allowing the user to interact with a video switch and controller coupled to the monitor, a second default source specification that determines which output is displayed on the video monitor when no control signals are present on the vehicle interface...". As previously discussed with reference to claim 1, Pala et al. disclose a software-defined default or initial view provided to the display, not the user interface recited in claim 29. The user interface of claim 29 is coupled to one or more devices that allow a user to interact with the video switch and controller, which is coupled to one or more video monitors (specification, page 8, lines 18-27; page 6, lines 22-24). For the reasons discussed above, it is submitted that claim 29 should be allowed.

New Claims

New claims 30 through 33 have been added. Independent claim 30 recites an apparatus in a vehicle having a room remote from a driver seat in the vehicle. The

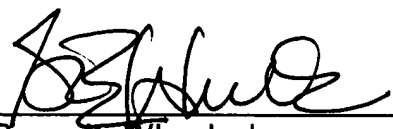
apparatus of claim 30 is described in the specification (page 11, lines 2-16). Claims 31 through 33 are dependent on claim 30 and also are supported in the specification.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314)726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

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